

OPPORTUNITY FUND 2016 **Student Application**

Program Overview, Calendar, Eligibility Requirements

The EducationUSA Opportunity Fund (OPF) program assists competitively selected students prepare to apply to U.S. universities. OPF is looking for 10 highly qualified, economically disadvantaged students from Addis Ababa who excel in math and science and are interested in studying in one of those fields. The program will select students who are likely to be awarded full financial aid from U.S. colleges and universities but lack the financial resources to cover the up-front costs of obtaining admission. The U.S. Embassy Addis Ababa is offering a six-week summer program for selected students to provide test preparation and English support for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the ACT and/or the SAT, exams required for attending university in the United States. The program will also include academic counseling and essay writing. The Opportunity Fund provides financial support for the six-week program as well as for testing and college applications. The program will meet five days per week from July 1 – August 12, 2016 at the U.S. Embassy with the goal of students applying to U.S. universities to begin study in August 2017.

In order to apply, you must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Must be living and attending school in Addis Ababa
- Must be an Ethiopian student from an economically disadvantaged background
- Must have taken your 10th grade national exam scoring an “A” in math, biology, chemistry, physics, and English
- Must be able to attend the entire six-week program without missing significant portions
- Must be interested in studying in the math or science fields at university

Date	Activity
April 28	Application Deadline
May 15	Semi-finalist exam
May 20 – 27	Semi-finalist interviews
May 30 – June 3	Finalist notification
July 1 - August 12	Program Dates at U.S. Embassy

If you meet these eligibility requirements, please fill out the following application, gather the necessary paperwork, scan the documents and email to addisopf2016@gmail.com with the subject “Opportunity Fund Application.” If you would prefer to submit a paper application, you may bring the application and required documents to the U.S. Embassy and leave them for Semira Alhadi or Wondim Geneti. If you do not meet the eligibility requirements, you will not be considered for the program.

Applications must be received by **Thursday, April 28**. Any applications received after this date will **not** be considered for the program.

Application Instructions

Remember, this is a competitive application. We want to get to know you as well as possible. Please complete this application form providing us as much information as you can about yourself, your dreams and ambitions, your family background, and your academic and community service record. Please make sure to write clearly so we can read your information. Read all directions carefully and put your name at the top of every page. It is essential that you attach the documents listed below to your application. Please send all parts of the application together at the same time to ensure that your application is complete and has as much contact information for you as possible. You can add extra pages to this application if you need more space to write. Please do not send originals of certificates or reports, as we cannot guarantee the return of any documents. Photocopies of this form are acceptable.

Attach the following documents to your application:

1. A photocopy of your 10th grade national exam results
2. A photocopy of your secondary school transcripts, all grades you have completed (9, 10, 11, 12)
3. One letter of recommendation explaining your character, talent and skills from a teacher, headmaster, pastor or NGO or community leader who knows you well, including their contact information. *(See page 6 for more information)*

Name: _____

Application: Personal Information

1. Full name _____
2. Gender M ____ F ____
3. Address where you reside _____
4. Date of Birth using Gregorian calendar (*month, day, year*) _____
5. Contact telephone(s) _____
6. Email address (*if applicable*) _____
7. Mother's current occupation, workplace, and monthly income, if living (*be specific, even if self-employed*)

8. Father's current occupation, workplace, and monthly income, if living (*be specific, even if self-employed*)

9. If parents are deceased, state name, relationship to you, occupation, workplace, and monthly income of your legal guardian

10. Do you or does anyone else contribute to the household income? If so, explain. _____

11. Number of direct siblings and their ages. For each direct sister or brother, state whether or not they are in school, which school and in what grade (including university level)

12. Number of other dependent people currently living with and supported by your family, and their relationships to you

13. Have you or your siblings ever missed a significant part of a school term(s) because of finances? If so, please explain.

Name: _____

Application: Academic and School Information

14. School & current grade _____
_____ ☐ Public ☐ Private

15. School Director's Name and telephone number _____

16. Cost of tuition _____ Are you on scholarship? ☐ Yes ☐ No

17. List all extra-curricular clubs, sports, and activities that you participate in or have participated in at school and in your community and/or religious institution. Indicate which one you devote the most time or energy to.

Application: Short Answer Questions

Please respond in a short answer, more than just a sentence, but not a full essay. We will use these questions to get to know you better, so include some details.

18. Please describe which activity discussed above in Question 17 that has the most meaning for you and why.

19. Do you hold any leadership positions at school? Please describe the position here and explain why it is important to you.

Name: _____

20. Describe a situation in which you have positively contributed to your community (*home, school, neighborhood, mosque, church, etc.*)

21. What subject do you want to study at university? What career would you like to have in the future?

22. Why do you want to study for university in the U.S.? Explain why you want to study abroad and what kind of an impact it would have on your future.

23. Selection for the Opportunity Fund is very competitive. Why should we select you over other highly-qualified students? What makes you special?

Name: _____

Application: Essay

Answer the following question in essay format, making sure to write clearly. Take your time to accurately answer the question in some detail.

24. Describe an experience that changed your life. This could be positive or a hardship, but something life changing and meaningful to you.

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Thank you for applying for the Opportunity Fund program. Please make sure all documents are together before submitting your application. We look forward to reviewing your application.

Name: _____

Letter of Recommendation

Recommender's Name _____

Recommender's Mobile Number _____

Recommender's Relationship to Applicant _____

In order to provide the selection committee with more detail about this student, please use the following points to write a letter of recommendation. The Opportunity Fund is looking for economically disadvantaged and highly qualified students interested in studying in the U.S. Explain this student's character (*is he or she helpful, motivated, a leader, does he or she stand out in some way?*), volunteer or extra-curricular activities, and if you know, their financial situation. Provide details and examples when possible.

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Signature: _____

Date: _____